



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/667,964	09/23/2003	Yoshiaki Sakagami	059406.00012	7894
32294 7590 06/09/2008 SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY L.L.P. 8000 TOWERS CRESCENT DRIVE 14TH FLOOR VIENNA, VA 22182-6212				
EXAMINER				
AZAD, ABUL K				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2626				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
06/09/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/667,964

Applicant(s)

SAKAGAMI ET AL.

Examiner

ABUL K. AZAD

Art Unit

2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 April 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 4-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/CDC)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/24/08

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to the communication filed on April 24, 2008.
2. Claims 1 and 4-25 are pending in this action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1, 4-12, 14-21 and 24-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nakadai et al. (US 2004/0104702).

As per claim 1, Nakadai teaches, “a receptionist robot system” (Paragraph 0121 “robot serving as a party receptionist”), comprising:

“a traveling robot including autonomous traveling means for traveling autonomously and recognition means for recognizing a guest at least according to image information” (Fig. 1 and Fig. 2, elements 11, 14 and 16); and

“management database means adapted to communicate with the robot and provided with a database containing identification information to identify the guest recognized by the recognition means” (Paragraphs 0142, “speaker identification”);

"wherein the guest is identified at least according to information obtained by the recognition means and management database means" (Paragraph 0142);

"wherein the traveling robot is provided with dialog means for communicating with the guest recognized by the recognition means" (paragraph 0156, "a dialog control circuit 53", Fig. 4, element 53) and

"response means for determining the contents of communication with the guest according to and identity of the guest recognized by the recognition means and associated information from the management database means" (Paragraphs 0156).

"wherein the recognition means detects the guest as a moving object and when it is determined that the guest has approached to a prescribed distance, detects a face of the guest to identify the guest by using the detected face" (Paragraphs 0144-0150).

As per claim 4, Nakadai teaches, "wherein the management database means is adapted to retain and update individual personal information and schedule information" (Paragraph 0196-198, a new participant's name is registered).

As per claim 5, Nakadai teaches, "wherein the management database means is adapted to update the individual personal information according to a result of communication with the guest conducted by the response means" (Paragraphs 0196-0199).

As per claim 6, Nakadai teaches, "wherein the recognition means is adapted to select a candidate or determine a priority order of a plurality of candidates according to the schedule information of the management database means" (Paragraphs 0191-0199).

As per claim 7, Nakadai teaches, "wherein the recognition means comprises a camera"(Fig. 6, element 15).

As per claim 8, Nakadai teaches, "wherein the recognition means comprises stereoscopic cameras" (Fig. 6, element 15).

As per claim 9, Nakadai teaches, "wherein the recognition means comprises a microphone" (Fig. 5, element 16).

As per claim 10, Nakadai teaches, "wherein the external recognition means comprises stereophonic microphones" (Fig. 5, element 16).

As per claim 11, Nakadai teaches, "a receptionist robot system", comprising:
"a traveling robot adapted to travel autonomously" (Fig. 1 and Fig. 2, elements 11, 14 and 16); and

"management database means adapted to communicate with the robot and provided with a database adapted to retain and update individual personal information and schedule information for identifying a guest" (Paragraphs 0194-0199),

"wherein the traveling robot comprises recognition means for recognizing the guest at least according to image information, and response means for determining an action to conduct the guest recognized by the recognition means" (Paragraphs 0146-0152),

"wherein the management database means is communicably connected with input means for inputting the schedule information and notification means for notifying the arrival of the guest to a host according to the action of the response means with respect to the guest" (Paragraph 0191-0199),

"wherein traveling robot further comprises dialog means for communicating with the guest recognized by the recognition means and response means for determining the contents of communication with the guest according to an identity of the guest recognized by the recognition means and associated information from the management database means" (Paragraph 0156 and Fig. 4, element 53), and

"wherein the recognition means detects the guest as a moving object and when it is determined that the guest has approached to a prescribed distance, detects a face of the guest to identify the guest by using the detected face" (0144-0155).

As per claim 24, Nakadai teaches, "wherein the traveling robot further comprises response means for determining an action to be executed depending on a particular condition by referring to a scenario table which defines various actions of the traveling robot and an individual personal map that manages human information surrounding the traveling robot" (Paragraphs 0173-0176, Fig. 9, element 64).

As per claims 12, 14-21 and 25 they are analyzed and thus rejected for the reasons set forth in the rejection of claims 4-10 and 24 because claims 12, 14-21 and 25 have similar scope.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakadai et al. as applied to claim 11 above, and further in view of Bancroft et al. (US 6,584,375).

As per claim 13, Nakadai does not explicitly teach, "wherein the management database comprises map information including at least a position of a stairway, and the traveling robot is capable of traveling inside a building including a stairway according to the map information". However, Bancroft teaches, "wherein the management database comprises map information including at least a position of a stairway, and the traveling robot is capable of traveling inside a building including a stairway according to the map information" (col. 6, lines 45-67). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use Bancroft's teaching in the Nakadai's invention because Bancroft teaches his invention might better to fulfill the customers needs (col. 1, lines 36-40).

7. Claims 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakadai et al. (US 2004/0104702) as applied to claims 4 and 11 above, and further in view of Surace et al. (US 7,058,577).

As per claims 22 and 23, does not explicitly teach, "wherein the management database means searches for an appointment of the identified guest by referring to the schedule information, and the traveling robot further comprises response means for determining an action to conduct the guest according to the search result of the management database means". However, Surace teaches, "wherein the management

database means searches for an appointment of the identified guest by referring to the schedule information, and the traveling robot further comprises response means for determining an action to conduct the guest according to the search result of the management database means" (col. 16, lines 41-55). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use Sirace's teaching in the invention of Nakadai because Surace teaches his invention provides a voice user interface with personality (col. 1, lines 62-63).

Contact Information

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Abul K. Azad** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-7599**. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Patrick Edouard**, can be reached at **(571) 272-7603**.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Or faxed to: **(571) 273-8300**.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to **401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA-22314** (Customer Service Window).

Art Unit: 2626

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

June 9, 2008

/Abul K. Azad/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2626